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Approved For Release 2003/05/14 : CIA-RDP78B05171A000600020196-6

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MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director for Intelligence

SUBJECT : Proposed Contract with [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] for a Precise Measurement Study at a Cost of

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1. This memorandum requests approval for the commitment of funds for a contract. The specific request is stated in Paragraph 2.

2. Measurements are an integral part of the imagery interpretation process; without reliable measurements, gross errors in interpretation are possible. Mensuration puts the quantitative factor back into the essentially qualitative process of imagery interpretation. We know, therefore, that measurements are necessary and that they must be very accurate. But how accurate? How accurate is extremely important for two reasons. First, we need to be able to place limits on the accuracy so that the analyst will know how reliable the data he is working with is and, second, where equipment is concerned, accuracy cost money, i.e., making a one micron comparator rather than a two micron comparator can easily triple the cost of the instrument. As a consequence, it is essential to know the exact limits of accuracy really required by the analyst to do his job along with the inherent accuracy actually recorded within the imagery so that we do not attempt to build equipment that is more accurate, and consequently more costly, than is necessary to effectively extract the essential information.

3. Errors in the mensuration process can result from many sources and are of many different magnitudes. Some result during the acquisition process itself due to characteristics of the camera or of the taking vehicle. Others occur during the film processing phase, while still others result during the actual measuring process. These errors result both from special characteristics of the measuring equipment and from the procedures utilized during the measuring process.

4. If we are to build measuring equipment which is cost effective and is no more accurate, or expensive than is necessary to fulfill our mission, we must be able to isolate and to understand the major error factors involved, i.e., locate the weak links in the mensuration chain, so that the final mensuration process is truly commensurate with the limitations of the materials being measured, the human performing the mensurations, and the requirements that the extracted data is to ultimately fulfill.

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5. This Precise Measurement Study is designed to isolate these major error factors. Separate elements of the problem have been isolated and analyzed in the past; however, the problem has never been tackled in its entirety. The study will not duplicate work already done but will build upon past efforts with the major emphasis in the areas where little has been done, e.g., the acquisition system and processing areas, etc. The specifics of the planned program are contained in both the attached detailed staff study and in the technical proposal.

6. The Contracting Officer will be requested to negotiate this contract in a single phase. The total time anticipated for the completion of this study is 12 months from the contract date.

7. Fourteen domestic contractors were invited to bid on this program and a total of five contractors responded. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] was judged to be the best qualified to accomplish the program. The [REDACTED] proposal displayed an excellent understanding of the problem and presented a realistic approach to solving the problem.

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8. This study has been closely coordinated through established internal and external channels and it has been determined that there is no duplication of effort.

9. It is requested that approval be granted to negotiate with the [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] for a contract to undertake the Precise
Measurement Study at a cost not to exceed [REDACTED]

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ARTHUR C. LUNDAREL

Director

National Photographic Interpretation Center

Attachments:

1. Catalog Form
2. Staff Study
3. [REDACTED] Proposal

APPROVAL: _____

Deputy Director for Intelligence

_____ Date

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